

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Allowed) A method for performing a search for both local electronic content and remote electronic content based on a single query, the method comprising:
 - receiving a single query that includes at least one search term;
 - simultaneously comparing the received search term automatically in response to the single query with indexed electronic content that is stored on a local device to derive a first result and comparing the received search term with electronic content that is stored on a remote device to derive a second result, wherein the local device is a personal computing device;
 - combining the first result and the second result into an amalgamated result; and
 - displaying the amalgamated result,
 - wherein comparing against content stored on the local device and content stored on the remote device is performed automatically in a default state such that the user need not pre-select to compare the received search term with both the indexed electronic content stored on the local device and the electronic content stored on the remote device.
2. (Allowed) The method as in claim 1 wherein the personal computing device includes a general purpose computer having an operating system.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Allowed) The method as in claim 1 wherein the amalgamated result is displayed without indicating whether the amalgamated result was derived from the first result or the second result.

5. (Allowed) The method as in claim 1 wherein comparing the received search term includes comparing based on a single input action by a user.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Allowed) The method as in claim 1 wherein comparing the received search term includes comparing the received search term, in response to the single query, with indexed electronic content stored on a first local device and with indexed electronic content stored on a second local device, wherein the first local device and the second local device are networked in a local area network.

10. (Allowed) The method as in claim 1 further comprising creating an index based on the electronic content stored on the local device, wherein comparing the received search term includes comparing the received search term with the index.

11. (Allowed) The method as in claim 10 wherein creating the index includes creating the index at an event pre-designated by a user of the local device.

12. (Allowed) The method as in claim 10 wherein creating the index includes creating the index on-demand in response to an action by a user of the local device.

13. (Allowed) The method as in claim 1 further comprising creating an inverted index based on the electronic content stored on the local device, wherein comparing the received search term includes comparing the received search term with the inverted index.

14. (Allowed) The method as in claim 1 further comprising creating an index based on the electronic content stored on the remote device, wherein comparing the received search term includes comparing the received search term with the index.

15. (Allowed) The method as in claim 14 further comprising creating a local index based on the electronic content stored on the remote device, wherein comparing the received search term includes comparing the received search term with the local index.

16. (Allowed) The method as in claim 14 further comprising creating a local inverted index based on the electronic content stored on the remote device, wherein comparing the received search term includes comparing the received search term with the local inverted index.

17. (Allowed) The method as in claim 1 wherein comparing the received search term includes performing a single comparison of the received search term with both the indexed electronic content stored on the local device and the electronic content stored on the remote device.

18. (Allowed) The method as in claim 1 further comprising, in response to an action of a user of the local device, designating at least one type of indexed electronic content stored on the local device for comparison with the received search term.

19. (Allowed) The method as in claim 1 further comprising, in response to an action of a user of the local device, designating at least one file location of the indexed electronic content stored on the local device for comparison with the received search term.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer program stored on a computer readable medium ~~or a propagated signal~~ for performing a search for both local electronic content and remote electronic content based on a single query, comprising:

a receiving code segment that causes the computer to receive a single query that includes at least one search term;

a comparing code segment that causes the computer simultaneously to compare the received search term automatically in response to the single query with indexed electronic content that is stored on a local device to derive a first result and to compare the received search term with electronic content that is stored on a remote device to derive a second result, wherein the local device is a personal computing device;

a combining code segment that causes the computer to combine the first result and the second result into an amalgamated result; and

a displaying code segment that causes the computer to display the amalgamated result, wherein the comparing code segment that causes the computer to compare against content stored on the local device and content stored on the remote device causes the computer to perform the comparison automatically in a default state such that the user need not pre-select to cause the computer to compare the received search term with both the indexed electronic content stored on the local device and the electronic content stored on the remote device.

21. (Allowed) The computer program of claim 20 wherein the personal computing device includes a general purpose computer having an operating system.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Allowed) The computer program of claim 20 wherein the amalgamated result is displayed without indicating whether the amalgamated result was derived from the first result or the second result.

24. (Allowed) The computer program of claim 20 wherein the comparing code segment causes the computer to compare based on a single input action by a user.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Allowed) The computer program of claim 20 wherein the comparing code segment causes the computer to compare the received search term, in response to the single query, with indexed electronic content stored on a first local device and with indexed electronic content stored on a second local device, wherein the first local device and the second local device are networked in a local area network.

29. (Allowed) The computer program of claim 20 further comprising an index creating code segment that causes the computer to create an index based on the electronic content stored on the local device, wherein the comparing code segment causes the computer to compare the received search term with the index.

30. (Allowed) The computer program of claim 29 wherein the index creating code segment causes the computer to create the index at an event pre-designated by a user of the local device.

31. (Allowed) The computer program of claim 29 wherein the index creating code segment causes the computer to create the index on-demand in response to an action by a user of the local device.

32. (Allowed) The computer program of claim 20 further comprising an index creating code segment that causes the computer to create an inverted index based on the electronic content stored on the local device, wherein the comparing code segment causes the computer to compare the received search term with the inverted index.

33. (Allowed) The computer program of claim 20 further comprising an index creating code segment that causes the computer to create an index based on the electronic content stored on the remote device, wherein the comparing code segment causes the computer to compare the received search term with the index.

34. (Allowed) The computer program of claim 33 further comprising a local index creating code segment that causes the computer to create a local index based on the electronic content stored on the remote device, wherein the comparing code segment causes the computer to compare the received search term with the local index.

35. (Allowed) The computer program of claim 33 further comprising a local index creating code segment that causes the computer to create a local inverted index based on the electronic content stored on the remote device, wherein the comparing code segment causes the computer to compare the received search term with the local inverted index.

36. (Allowed) The computer program of claim 20 wherein the comparing code segment causes the computer to perform a single comparison of the received search term with both the indexed electronic content stored on the local device and the electronic content stored on the remote device.

37. (Allowed) The computer program of claim 20 further comprising, in response to an action of a user of the local device, a designating code segment that causes the computer to

designate at least one type of indexed electronic content stored on the local device for comparison with the received search term.

38. (Allowed) The computer program of claim 20 further comprising, in response to an action of a user of the local device, a designating code segment that causes the computer to designate at least one file location of the indexed electronic content stored on the local device for comparison with the received search term.

39. (Allowed) The method as in claim 2 wherein the operating system includes a Windows-based operating system.

40. (Allowed) The method as in claim 2 wherein the operating system includes a Unix-based operating system.

41. (Allowed) The computer program of claim 21 wherein the operating system includes a Windows-based operating system.

42. (Allowed) The computer program of claim 21 wherein the operating system includes a Unix-based operating system.

43. (Currently Amended) A system for performing a search for both local electronic content and remote electronic content based on a single query, comprising:
means for receiving a single query that includes at least one search term;
means for simultaneously comparing the received search term automatically in response to the single query with indexed electronic content that is stored on a local device to derive a first result and comparing the received search term with electronic content that is stored on a remote device to derive a second result, wherein the local device is a personal computing device;
means for combining the first result and the second result into an amalgamated result; and

means for displaying the amalgamated result,

wherein the means for comparing against content stored on the local device and content stored on the remote device ~~is performed~~ automatically performs the comparing in a default state such that the user need not pre-select to compare the received search term with both the indexed electronic content stored on the local device and the electronic content stored on the remote device.

44. (Allowed) A method for performing a search for both local electronic content and remote electronic content based on a single query, the method comprising:

receiving a single query that includes at least one search term;

comparing the received search term automatically in response to the single query with indexed electronic content that is stored on a local device to derive a first result and, at a separate time, comparing the received search term with electronic content that is stored on a remote device to derive a second result based on a single input action by a user, wherein the local device is a personal computing device;

combining the first result and the second result into an amalgamated result; and

displaying the amalgamated result,

wherein comparing against content stored on the local device and content stored on the remote device is performed automatically in a default state such that the user need not pre-select to compare the received search term with both the indexed electronic content stored on the local device and the electronic content stored on the remote device.

45. (Allowed) The method as in claim 44 wherein the personal computing device includes a general purpose computer having an operating system.

46. (Allowed) The method as in claim 44 wherein the amalgamated result is displayed without indicating whether the amalgamated result was derived from the first result or the second result.

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Cancelled)

49. (Allowed) The method as in claim 44 wherein comparing the received search term includes comparing the received search term, in response to the single query, with indexed electronic content stored on a first local device and with indexed electronic content stored on a second local device, wherein the first local device and the second local device are networked in a local area network.

50. (Allowed) The method as in claim 44 further comprising creating an index based on the electronic content stored on the local device, wherein comparing the received search term includes comparing the received search term with the index.

51. (Allowed) The method as in claim 50 wherein creating the index includes creating the index at an event pre-designated by a user of the local device.

52. (Allowed) The method as in claim 50 wherein creating the index includes creating the index on-demand in response to an action by a user of the local device.

53. (Allowed) The method as in claim 44 further comprising creating an inverted index based on the electronic content stored on the local device, wherein comparing the received search term includes comparing the received search term with the inverted index.

54. (Allowed) The method as in claim 44 further comprising creating an index based on the electronic content stored on the remote device, wherein comparing the received search term includes comparing the received search term with the index.

55. (Allowed) The method as in claim 54 further comprising creating a local index based on the electronic content stored on the remote device, wherein comparing the received search term includes comparing the received search term with the local index.

56. (Allowed) The method as in claim 54 further comprising creating a local inverted index based on the electronic content stored on the remote device, wherein comparing the received search term includes comparing the received search term with the local inverted index.

57. (Allowed) The method as in claim 44 wherein comparing the received search term includes performing a single comparison of the received search term with both the indexed electronic content stored on the local device and the electronic content stored on the remote device.

58. (Allowed) The method as in claim 44 further comprising, in response to an action of a user of the local device, designating at least one type of indexed electronic content stored on the local device for comparison with the received search term.

59. (Allowed) The method as in claim 44 further comprising, in response to an action of a user of the local device, designating at least one file location of the indexed electronic content stored on the local device for comparison with the received search term.

60. (Allowed) The method as in claim 45 wherein the operating system includes a Windows-based operating system.

61. (Allowed) The method as in claim 45 wherein the operating system includes a Unix-based operating system.

62. (Currently Amended) A computer program stored on a computer readable medium ~~or a propagated signal~~ for performing a search for both local electronic content and remote electronic content based on a single query, comprising:

a receiving code segment that causes the computer to receive a single query that includes at least one search term;

a comparing code segment that causes the computer ~~simultaneously~~ to compare the received search term automatically in response to the single query with indexed electronic content that is stored on a local device to derive a first result and, at a separate time, to compare the received search term with electronic content that is stored on a remote device to derive a second result based on a single input action by a user, wherein the local device is a personal computing device;

a combining code segment that causes the computer to combine the first result and the second result into an amalgamated result; and

a displaying code segment that causes the computer to display the amalgamated result, wherein the comparing code segment that causes the computer to compare against content stored on the local device and content stored on the remote device causes the computer to perform the comparison automatically in a default state such that the user need not pre-select to cause the computer to compare the ~~receive~~ received search term with both the indexed electronic content stored on the local device and the electronic content stored on the remote device.

63. (Allowed) The computer program of claim 62 wherein the personal computing device includes a general purpose computer having an operating system.

64. (Allowed) The computer program of claim 62 wherein the amalgamated result is displayed without indicating whether the amalgamated result was derived from the first result or the second result.

65. (Cancelled)

66. (Cancelled)

67. (Allowed) The computer program of claim 62 wherein the comparing code segment causes the computer to compare the received search term, in response to the single query, with indexed electronic content stored on a first local device and with indexed electronic content stored on a second local device, wherein the first local device and the second local device are networked in a local area network.

68. (Allowed) The computer program of claim 62 further comprising an index creating code segment that causes the computer to create an index based on the electronic content stored on the local device, wherein the comparing code segment causes the computer to compare the received search term with the index.

69. (Allowed) The computer program of claim 68 wherein the index creating code segment causes the computer to create the index at an event pre-designated by a user of the local device.

70. (Allowed) The computer program of claim 68 wherein the index creating code segment causes the computer to create the index on-demand in response to an action by a user of the local device.

71. (Allowed) The computer program of claim 62 further comprising an index creating code segment that causes the computer to create an inverted index based on the electronic content stored on the local device, wherein the comparing code segment causes the computer to compare the received search term with the inverted index.

72. (Allowed) The computer program of claim 62 further comprising an index creating code segment that causes the computer to create an index based on the electronic content stored on the remote device, wherein the comparing code segment causes the computer to compare the received search term with the index.

73. (Allowed) The computer program of claim 72 further comprising a local index creating code segment that causes the computer to create a local index based on the electronic content stored on the remote device, wherein the comparing code segment causes the computer to compare the received search term with the local index.

74. (Allowed) The computer program of claim 72 further comprising a local index creating code segment that causes the computer to create a local inverted index based on the electronic content stored on the remote device, wherein the comparing code segment causes the computer to compare the received search term with the local inverted index.

75. (Allowed) The computer program of claim 62 wherein the comparing code segment causes the computer to perform a single comparison of the received search term with both the indexed electronic content stored on the local device and the electronic content stored on the remote device.

76. (Allowed) The computer program of claim 62 further comprising, in response to an action of a user of the local device, a designating code segment that causes the computer to designate at least one type of indexed electronic content stored on the local device for comparison with the received search term.

77. (Allowed) The computer program of claim 62 further comprising, in response to an action of a user of the local device, a designating code segment that causes the computer to

designate at least one file location of the indexed electronic content stored on the local device for comparison with the received search term.

78. (Allowed) The computer program of claim 63 wherein the operating system includes a Windows-based operating system.

79. (Allowed) The computer program of claim 63 wherein the operating system includes a Unix-based operating system.

80. (Currently Amended) A system for performing a search for both local electronic content and remote electronic content based on a single query, comprising:

means for receiving a single query that includes at least one search term;

means for ~~simultaneously~~ comparing the received search term automatically in response to the single query with indexed electronic content that is stored on a local device to derive a first result and, at a separate time, comparing the received search term with electronic content that is stored on a remote device to derive a second result based on a single input action by a user, wherein the local device is a personal computing device;

means for combining the first result and the second result into an amalgamated result; and

means for displaying the amalgamated result,

wherein the means for comparing against content stored on the local device and content stored on the remote device ~~is performed~~ automatically performs the comparing in a default state such that the user need not pre-select to compare the received search term with both the indexed electronic content stored on the local device and the electronic content stored on the remote device.